

lead. The mighty height of the Chemin des Dames had to be taken.

The attack began on May 27th. The surprise was a complete success, and that is why the first successes were brilliant. The original objective of the operation had been the Aisne and Vesle, but the infantry advanced across the Aisne on the first day. In a few days the Marne was reached at Chateau-Thierry and Dormans and enormous booty was brought in. The shock army's right wing wheeled west to widen the attack.

The French Chamber demanded a new Commander-in-Chief. The ministers of France, England and Italy appealed to Wilson for help: There was the greatest danger of losing the war.

The regiment was loaded at Landrecies on 29 May, proceeded to Laon and was quartered at Chambry and Verneuil. The advance began at 4 a.m. the next morning via Urcel on Vailly. It was an uplifting moment for everyone to walk down the Chemin des Dames, to whose defense in 1917 many Augustans had sealed their allegiance with their blood. A local bivouac was set up in Vailly. From here you had a wonderful view of the Aisne valley; down there were also the captured French railway guns which had shelled Laon.

On the 31st the offensive, which went well, was followed in great heat, and the beautiful Lesges, south of Braisne, was reached in the afternoon. The thick dust on the streets and the whole mood were reminiscent of August 1914.

On June 1st, at 23° at night, we set out and marched via Launoy into the Bois de St. Jean, where during the day in the high oak und Buchenwalde was deigned. In the evening the march continued to the forest bivouac south of Billy on the Ourcq.

The next morning the regiment received the order: "The 2nd Guards Division will be placed under General Command Winckler and inserted between the 28th Reserve and the 1st Guards Division; Regiment Augusta on the right, Franz on the left. First target: Villers Cotterets-La Werts Milon railway. Augusta regiment moves in immediately and prepares to attack north of Noroy."

The regiment moved in and deployed in its combat zone, with the Fusilier Battalion Bernuth (Fritz) and the 1st Battalion Glaser in the front line. A platoon of escort batteries was assigned to each of these battalions, and a platoon of mortars and engineers was assigned to each battalion; the 2nd Battalion and the

machine-gun sniper company remained at the disposal of the regiment.

Advancing, the battalions received lively artillery fire in the clear weather, but without much effect. As in general in those days, there was a great deal of activity in the air force; Close air squadrons pelted towns and batteries with innumerable small bombs until the Richthofen combat squadron appeared with its aircraft painted entirely red, finished off several opponents every day and gained supremacy in the air.

At about 2 p.m. the battalions crossed the front line of the 28th Reserve Division and advanced to the attack. The advanced French posts were soon overrun, taken prisoner and machine guns captured. The individual groups worked their way forward with dexterity. Towards evening the attack came to a halt in front of a line of well-concealed machine guns. At the same time the order was received that the planned main attack was not to be carried out until the next day, with the inner wing of the Augusta and Franz regiments against the Buchel woods.

The Fusilier battalion was already lying on the west bank of the Savières creek, about 300 meters from Faverolles. The 1st Battalion used the evening hours to create an assault position on the other side of the stream. Two enemy machine gun nests were dug up, four machine guns captured and 12 prisoners taken. Under the protection of the advanced companies, the pioneers were able to build numerous bridges.

Thus, on the morning of June 3, 430, the regiment was organized for the attack in its sector. Around 515, strong own preparatory fire began; the French immediately called in a barrage of white flares with stars, which also began vigorously. But it was behind the front line, so that no major losses occurred, not even in the 2nd Battalion.

After a quarter of an hour the companies stormed in thick fog. Enemy machine gun fire ensued, inflicting casualties. But fusiliers and grenadiers charged despite the fire. The enemy could not resist and fell back. The Fusilier battalion made good headway and soon crossed the Faverolles-Troësnes road, passing south of Faverolles. Despite strong flank fire from there, the battalion worked its way forward, broke the last resistance in the front and held down the enemy in Faverolles with the infantry escort battery, while at the same time Lieutenant Nadermann advanced against the village with his mortars. Troësnes road by 150,000 feet, the fog rose; the enemy could be seen in full retreat in front of the front, but heavy machine-gun fire from Faverolles now began. The battalion had to stop and turn its right wing company towards the village. The division on the right had not caught up, so the wing of the regiment was now floating freely in the air.

[MAP]

1st Battalion encountered machine gun nests soon after leaving their initial assault position; but with the help of the accompanying weapons they were overcome. The enemy retreated here too. The battalion followed swiftly, also crossing the road and advancing against the railway. More machine gun nests were dug; this took time in the confusing terrain. The Franz regiment was also unable to keep up with the battalion because of heavy machine gun fire. Thus the regiment whose officers and men had advanced with the greatest vigour, was pinned down short of the stated target.

The fighting became more and more stubborn, and so the almost won victory turned into an arduous, costly clinging. Parts of the 11th Company had already penetrated Faverolles, where larger squads surrendered to the French, when the artillery of the neighboring sector again laid heavy fire on the village, so that the riflemen had to leave again.

In the meantime the enemy had recognized the situation of the regiment and launched violent, uniformly directed counter-attacks against the front and flanks. At the same time,

machine guns from Faverolles swept along the front line and behind it, cutting off communications to the rear. There were stubborn hand-to-hand combats with the French advancing in the front; with tenacious resentment the company commanders and their followers held out in the line they had fought for. A tank in front of the 1st Battalion was taken out by the infantry escort. The reserves of the battalions bravely threw themselves against the constantly repeated enemy counter-attacks from the railway line and from Faverolles, so that it was possible to hold the Faverolles-Froësnes road against all attacks. But the losses kept increasing. Lieutenant v. Husks, severely wounded, in the enemy's hand and there succumbed to his mortal wound.

The fusilier battalion was assigned the sniper company to cover the right flank, the 1st battalion was assigned a company from the 2nd battalion to cover the left flank and another as a reserve. The last two companies of 2nd Battalion were ready to counterattack behind the middle of the sector east of the Savières creek; the 2nd machine gun company occupied the creek crossings.

At 2 o'clock in the afternoon a new major counter-attack by the enemy began; where it reached the road, it had to give way again after a short time. In the evening hours, the Franz regiment also managed to cross the stream, which brought great relief to the regiment.

Nevertheless, by nightfall it was necessary to establish a new line just on the enemy's side of the Savières creek. in which the companies were not so exposed to flank fire from either side. The fusilier battalion turned the front against Faverolles. Although the position was on the rear slope, it had the great disadvantage that the regiment had the stream very close to its rear. The first battalion, which had been thinned out at the start, was withdrawn during the night and replaced by the second. The sections now had the captains v. Bernuth, Fritz and Felix.

It is difficult to describe the mood in which the whole regiment was on the evening of this day of fighting. Again the regiment had done brilliantly, and yet victory turned into failure. 12 officers and almost 600 men had bled, 5 officers, Lieutenants Klein II, Kling, Jäger, Grunow and v. Hulsen, and more than 100 men remained dead. Staff surgeon Koehler

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worked tirelessly all night with his medical staff to help the wounded.

On the whole front the attack had come to a standstill that day. It turned out that the enemy had concentrated his forces here for the most enduring resistance; even the bravest regiments who ran against it in the difficult terrain were unsuccessful. The offensive, which had already gone far beyond all expectations, had to be broken off and resumed elsewhere.

On divisional orders, the attack was not continued the next day. Only patrols advanced to feign further attacks. Each battalion could again draw a company in reserve. Enemy artillery activity had decreased somewhat; towards evening the enemy occupied the rear area with several fire raids. The regimental staff lay in little rabbit-holes on the Savières slope, and had posted a post up the slope at night to keep out unauthorized intruders; Suddenly breaking of two branches, a bang, scolding and wailing: the sentry himself had fallen into the "bedroom" and with his big boots straight onto his regimental commander!

In the early morning of June 5th the regiment was relieved and went back to the forest near Chouy. Here it rested for four days, but had to change its place more often because of the fire.

On the 9th the regiment advanced again and relieved the Franz regiment, which was located to the south of the regiment's previous position. Enemy jamming fire had diminished somewhat, but increased again from June 10th. The final relief arrived on the morning of the 14th; the regiment bivouacked again east of Billy and in the next few days marched via Arcy and Cramaille to Magneux, Courlondon and Villette near Fismes in the Vesle valley, where it was accommodated partly in the villages and partly in large English and French barracks.

Occupation June 1918.

Regimental Commander: Colonel Frhr. grote.

Regimental Adjutant: Lt. Mrs. Raitz v. frentz

Orderly Officer: Lt. Jacobshagen.

Gas Officer: Lt. scholtz

Instruction Officer: Lt. Schultze.

Message comm.: Lt. Suhring.

1st Battalion:

Captain Glajer.

Adjutant: Lt. v. Spangenberg.

1st Comp.: Lt. Angel.

2nd Comp.: Lt. emden

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3rd Comp.: Lt. Herb.

4th Comp.: Lt. Rithershaus.

1. MGK: Oblt. Frond.

II Battalion:

Hptm. Bernuth (Felix).

Adjutant: Lt. Albanos.

5th Comp.: Lt. beer

6th Comp.: Lt. Zogeiser.

7th Comp.: Lt. Schwickert.

8th Comp.: Lt. Monastery.

2. MGK: Lt. Burghardt.

Fusilier Battalion:

Hptm. Bernuth (Fritz).

Adjutant: Lt. Deer.

9th Comp.: Lt. pine branch.

10th Comp.: Lt. way.

11th Comp.: Lt. Fasshauer.

12th Comp.: Lt. Blumenkamp.

3. MGK: Lt. rotter

M.-W.-Abt.: Lt. Nadermann.

Pioneer Dept.: Officer Deputy Kokozinski.

Rest at Fismes.
June 16-July 11, 1918.

The regiment returned, as always after such a period of fighting, with one great need only, and that was rest. But after just a few days it was time to build up again with all your strength. 11 officers and over 500 men from the dissolved Reserve Reserve Regiment 1 arrived. For the most part, this replacement had not previously been in the front line. So the uniform training had to be started again from the ground up. The influenza epidemic, which was spreading in all warring countries, especially in Germany, probably as a result of malnutrition, was very aggravating and also claimed its victims in the regiment. Gradually the state of health improved again, larger exercises could be held. On June 29, a battalion of four divisions was inspected by His Imperial Highness the Crown Prince. Commander of the battalion made up of Augusta, Alexander and Franz was Hauptmann v. Bernuth (Fritz). The Crown Prince saluted the battalions and walked the lines, shaking hands with each front-line officer and addressing many enlisted men. Then he made a short speech in which, in his clear, thanked the troops in simple words for their bravery. general v Friedeburg answered. This was followed by the distribution of Iron Crosses and a march past in group columns. Cheered on by the teams, the crown prince drove back to his headquarters.

On July 6th there was a big sports festival with relay races, sack races, jumping and singing. Hundreds of healed influenza patients returned to the regiment strengthened.

On July 11th the order came that the regiment had to be ready to march in the evening.

The second battle of the Marne. July 15-28, 1918.

In July began the mighty final enterprise of the war, the last great achievement in this difficult struggle, which was to give the first impetus to the setback. It was planned to cut off Reims from both sides and then carry the war of movement into the interior of France through the resulting gap. The 2nd Guards Division was given the important task of advancing in a narrow strip on the north bank of the Marne.

On the evening of July 11, the regiment marched off with a detachment of engineers, an accompanying battery, a battle train, and the baggage wagons loaded with ammunition; the big train and excess luggage were parked. In the dark night we headed south towards the Marne. Although many divisions and columns were on the march, there was no crossing or stagnation, as everything was well prepared.

At 3 a.m. the regiment arrived in the forest 5-Piles south of Arcis-le-Ponsart and bivouaced in thick darkness. Even the smallest bush was filled with troops; during the day no one was allowed to be seen outside his wooded area. Field kitchens and water wagons were also only allowed to drive at night, so that no planes discovered the deployment. The artillery preparation was well thought out. In the division's sector alone 52 batteries were active.

On the evening of July 14, the regiment moved into the forest near Villers-Agron, the staging area for the attack. On the way, a very heavy thunderstorm set in that drenched everyone to the skin. The vehicles got stuck and had to be pushed forward with every effort.

The 2nd Guards Division was to attack from the line of Wald von Trotte south of Authenay with the right wing along the Marne in an easterly direction. In the divisional sector, which was only over a little a kilometer board, the Franz and Alexander regiments came into the front line, the Augusta regiment was to follow behind the middle. Every man knew exactly his tasks, which were shown to him on good pictures from the plane.

When the regiment arrived at its hideout, the preparatory fire began. Millions of shots of all calibers twitched in yellow flames on the slightly cloudy horizon. cannon stood next to cannon; the artillerymen looked all black, so they worked in the steam. Thin fumes of gas hit back and irritated the nose and ears.

At 45° in the morning the foremost left broke into the enemy position, the attack initially made good progress. The regiment followed at 730 am and was able to advance close behind the front line to the heights north of Chatillon.

From here the forest sloped down to a small tributary of the Marne and rose again on the other bank to a ridge which was heavily occupied by the enemy. The Alexander regiment was fighting against this enemy. Only when several batteries under Captain Lancelle opened up and fired directly did the Alexander regiment succeed in taking the opposite heights. At the same time, the II. Battalion under Captain v. Bernuth (Felix), who had just been placed under the Alexander regiment, gave orders to take possession of Montigny, which lay at the foot of the heights beyond.

The battalion had already suffered casualties from heavy artillery fire; it now stepped unfolded out of the forest and threw itself in long lines in one go on the village assigned to it. The French garrison was dealt with by dashing shock troops, and the place fell into the hands of the victorious battalion.

Meanwhile the enemy was still putting up stubborn resistance at Chatillon; here it was only thrown in the afternoon with a newly concentrated artillery effect. For this attack, the Fusilier Battalion was subordinated to the Franz Regiment. It soon reached Chatillon with its papal monument looking far into the Marne Valley. To the right below the Marne flowed between the forest and vineyards. Heavy fire swept across the river, but there were no casualties. Then it went through wheat fields in burning heat. Captain V. Bernuth (Fritz) went in front of his battalion; he saw something blue shimmering in the corn—is it cornflowers? He sprang towards it—and captured an officer and eight men.

It was now unstoppable behind the opponent. At the Moulin du Jour, the battalion suddenly received machine-gun fire from all sides; there was no cover anywhere, the ditch too shallow; but when the foremost companies developed, the enemy withdrew.

With the fall of Montigny the enemy position was broken; the adjoining units, the Franz regiment on the right and the German Jäger division on the left, were also able to gain ground.

But in the vineyards north of Montigny there were a lot of French machine gun nests, defending tenaciously. The Alexander Regiment and the left wing of II Battalion were therefore soon engaged in new heavy fighting. The battalion commander continued to

advance along the slopes of the Marne Valley with the 7th Schwickert Company deployed on the right wing. The company came through a ravine and from here, with six machine guns, which Lieutenant Schwickert fetched himself, was able to flank and shoot down a French battalion that was advancing in the Marne Valley. The nests of this battalion flooded back beyond Neuil; this created the longed-for air for the Franz regiment, which was struggling hard in the valley.

Shortly thereafter, the inexorably advancing company succeeded in capturing 7 guns and taking 3 officers and 30 men prisoner. After all, the Germans are always superior to the French in hand-to-hand combat, other things being equal!

The battle for the castle of Vandières, long passed through, raged longer. There, a wounded colonel of the French 115th regiment with a few hundred men defended the building for many hours to the last man.

Around 11 o'clock in the evening the troops went to rest where they were on the bloody field. The strength of the people was exhausted; they had been in hot combat for well over 24 hours, sometimes under the scorching sun.

The success of this first day was great. 40 guns and 14,000 prisoners were the booty. For the 2nd Battalion in particular, the day is a shining day of glory.

On the 16th and 17th, in very hot and sultry weather, the attack continued. Flanking fire from the south bank of the Marne remained uncomfortable. The fusilier battalion took part in the advance towards the Savarts farm, which lay on a plateau surrounded by forest. Heavy fire and severe thunderstorms stalled the movement. Then ground was gained beyond the Ferme, and the Harnotay Ferme was also snatched from the enemy. But beyond it glared from enemy defenses. Leaders of all ranks tried to advance the attack, but with the stubborn resistance in the impenetrable undergrowth of the Savarts Forest it was impossible to advance further. The forces melted away; Besides many brave fighters, Lieutenant Czigan and Fähnrich von d Hardt fell here.

In the evening of that day the regiment had to face the bitter fact that the attack had been halted by the utter exhaustion of the troops.

The whole offensive on both sides of Reims had been betrayed to the enemy several days before; the French had therefore deployed their artillery in depth and everywhere put up stubborn resistance.

On July 18, early in the morning, the regiment replaced the Alexander regiment with the Fusilier and II battalions, while the I remained subordinate to the Franz regiment. This detachment had to take place in pitch darkness in unfamiliar terrain on slippery clay soil; only the flashing grenades helped with the search. The front line now ran between Tincourt and Venteuil, just west of Harnotay Ferme. The whole area was under fire from medium and heavy calibers, resulting in fairly heavy casualties.

When at 9 a.m. the two battalion leaders, Hauptmann v. Bernuth, Fritz and Feliz, who left the front line, began the enemy attack. The enemy managed to break through to the north

of the regiment; from there his patrols roamed the wooded terrain behind the front. The front line, troubled by the rear-end firing, was brought to rest by small support detachments and unified leadership restored. The connection to the Franz Regiment, which was about two kilometers further back and to which the 1st Battalion was also subordinate, was established by machine gun squads.

When parts of the Fusilier Battalion were pushed back a little, Lieutenant Faßhauer immediately counterattacked with the 11th Company, which regained the old line. Some penetrating blacks were beaten to death in the back. The 9th Kämmerer Company brought an enemy advancing from the south to a halt.

Lieutenant Schwickert, revolver in hand, took his place at the head of his 7th Company and counterattacked. Several machine gun shots shattered his left arm and right hand, so that with tears in his eyes he had to say goodbye to his company, of which he himself writes: "You never needed to drive these incomparably brave people, no, I had to hold them back!

" the situation is not pleasant. There was a heavy fire in the wooded area; there was thunder and cracking, and there was no sign of the enemy. But Bernuth's two battalions held out tenaciously at the front edge of the forest. Lieutenant Nadermann, the fearless leader of the mortars, was badly wounded while walking around and encouraging his men, and died shortly thereafter in the hospital. Lieutenants Hardrat, Burghardt, Overdiel and Ottmann were also wounded. Captain V. Bernuth (Fritz) now led his two reserve companies to thrust to the left, whereupon he too was wounded. He used his last staff in front of a battery asking for protection, and held out there until the fighting died down. In the afternoon a strong fire with gas effect began, which lasted far too short; therefore the companies were rearranged and had to be reorganized. Captain v. Bernuth (Felix) the companies Faßhauer, Müller and Weger, Lieutenant v. Heydebrand the companies chamberlain and Tate.

The French continued shelling the villages to the rear until late in the evening; it was their special sport to devastate the beautiful villages of the Marne Valley as early as possible with long-range artillery and lay them in ruins. How they would have lived in Germany!

July 18 is the turning point of the war in 1918. On this day the enemy launched a surprising, large-scale counterattack near Soissons. 300 tanks accompanied the infantry and managed to overrun several German rifle lines in the morning fog. The reserves were too weak to restore the situation. From then on the enemy never let the initiative out of his hands. Had we been able to strike at the same time, he would not have succeeded, but we lacked men and war material.

In the night of July 18-19, the divisions that had advanced across the Marne were withdrawn to the north bank. Shifts also occurred in the regiment. The apron was placed in the line Reuil (excl.) - Savarts-Ferme and all preparations for defense were made. In front was the fusilier battalion under Lieutenant v. Heydebrand with his adjutant, Lieutenant Reh, with three companies in the advance zone, with one company and the Fusilier Battalion Alexander, which was replaced the next day by the 1st Augusta Battalion, in the main resistance line. The regimental command post was at the exit from Villers.

The morning of July 21 was quiet. The 11th Company took 4 French prisoners who testified that an enemy attack was intended. They belonged to a division that was newly deployed because "the blacks had enough".

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From 12 o'clock the enemy artillery revived; in addition, its own batteries shot too short. Soon the fire raids became more violent and enemy troop concentrations were observed at Venteuil and Tincourt. At 3:15 a.m. the enemy suddenly shifted their fire to the rear area and attacked with strong forces. But the fire from the overhanging machine guns under Sergeant Bremer hit him in the face, and he was only able to penetrate the linden trees of the Fusilier battalion at a narrow point. Lieutenant Müller immediately deployed his reserves and Lieutenant Faßhauer used them to throw the enemy out of the trenches again; Elsewhere, Lieutenant Weger and four non-commissioned officers fought back the enemy in hand grenade combat. Thus the French attack had collapsed on the whole front; The enemy had to return to their starting positions under the fire of pursuit, suffering heavy casualties. Own losses were small; only Lieutenant Fasshauer received a severe shot in the knee. Heydebrand's battalion had done well.

On July 22 the French infantry had to recover from their defeat and kept quiet. Flanking heavy artillery shelled the Savarts Forest across the Marne. Nearby Lieutenant Thamsen fell. In the afternoon the enemy advanced against the 10th and 11th companies, but were beaten off by machine-gun fire; Losses were only caused by the devastating fire of their own artillery. lieutenant v Heydebrand had pilot signs laid out, a plane came and let down a basket of carrier pigeons with a parachute, which brought a valuable connection backwards. Unfortunately, despite all the urgent reports, it was initially not possible to advance the artillery fire further, so that the excitement was very great at times; for nothing is harder to bear than the fire of our own artillery in the position. On this day the heroic Lieutenant Miiller, who had been a firm support and exemplary leader of his company, received a mortal wound. As always, the regimental adjutant, Lieutenant Frhr. Raitz v. Frentz.

In the night of July 24/25, the lines were moved back under the slogan "Berlin-Coblenz" in order to shorten the front. The three battalions should always occupy three lines in a row, the two foremost marching back at night while the third occupied the new apron. All these nocturnal movements went on quietly; Material was taken, the enemy deceived. The well thought out clear orders to withdraw were carried out smoothly. At that time the troops still mastered the enemy as and where they wanted. As a result, mood was good; no one was having suffered a defeat, for which there was no reason even within the regiment.

On the 25th, the Fusilier Battalion occupied the so-called blue apron in the Rodemat forest, while the 1st Battalion moved into the new main line of resistance. The Regimental Headquarters and II Battalion went to Cuisles. Some officers with light machine guns stayed in the old apron to deceive the enemy. The opponent had not noticed the deduction; the very next night his flares rose in front of the former German lines.

On the evening of July 26, this position was also abandoned to save energy and the "brown" position behind it was moved. The regimental staff went to the northern part of the cherry forest. Forward groups fought the cautiously empathetic opponent.

During the night of the 28th to the 29th the regiment was relieved and took up quarters at Dravegny, then at St. Gilles an der Ardre, in a large French barracks hospital where even every man had a bed.

Here the regiment received the news the next day that its commander, Colonel Frhr. Grote, who had led the regiment so calmly and confidently, was appointed commander of the 180th Infantry Brigade. Major Götze of the 4th machine gun sniper battalion took over the leadership of the regiment for the time being.

The battalions marched further north and reached Roney on July 30th, the forest camps at Sissonne early August 1st, Vigneux first on August 2nd and the final quarters in Harcigny, Plomion and Nampcelle in the evening. The area was not very scenic and very poor.

Food was scarce, there were many dried vegetables without potatoes. A letter from Private Lüning shows how much the soldier's mood depends on such circumstances: "The following day a few parcels from home with bacon and cake strengthened me. Now I had new courage to continue to hold out for my loved ones at home as well as for the whole dear fatherland!"

Peace at Montcornet.
August 1-23, 1918.

The three-week period of rest began, as usual, with bathing, delousing, and repairing things, then progressed to light duty and concluded with major drills and inspections. In addition, sports festivals and other variety provided for quick recovery.

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Such a sports festival took place on a large meadow bordered by hedges. Each company had prepared its place as nicely as possible. This is how tents decorated with wreaths were created, which were connected by linen to lanterns made of wickerwork. Running, jumping and throwing hand grenades began first, then magicians and clowns performed their plays; the regimental music and the canteen brought the necessary atmosphere.

Major Frh. v. Schleinitz, formerly a battalion commander in the 5th Garde Grenadier Regiment, where he had earned his Pour le Merite, was made commander of the regiment and arrived on 5 August. He immediately visited all the quarters and kitchens to make sure of the well-being of the crews. Captain Mrs. v. Kettler, who had been taken prisoner by the Russians as an airman, returned to the regiment. Captain Glodkowski, barely recovered from his severe wound, took over command of the Fusilier Battalion.

The battalions were formed into three companies at this time; the 4th, 8th and 9th companies were disbanded.

Retreat Battles. In the allaines position.
Late August 1918.

Meanwhile the enemy had continued their mass attacks on all fronts.

The 2nd Guards Division was made available to the hard-pressed 2nd Army.

On August 22nd the regiment was ready to march in the quarters near Plonion and advanced to the railway the next day in the evening. After a short drive to Ham and Flavy le Martel it was paraded on lorries to Brie sur Somme.

Here the division was ready to intervene on August 25 behind the Somme between Eterpigny and Lamire-Ferme. The area was well known: on the opposite bank was Barleux, where the regiment had been stationed at the end of 1916. Not a tree and not a house could be seen in the far distance, and the traces of the last battles were everywhere. In the ravines leading to the Somme Bridge alone there were six shelled tanks, and the whole ground was churned up by shells.

The mood was serious. The roar of cannon could be heard not too far away, and everyone knew that more difficult days were ahead. It was like a release from the pressure of the unknown when the command came into action. At the same time, a violent thunderstorm released the tension in the air.

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The 2nd and Fusilier Battalions were loaded in the evening and drove into the dark night in trucks. The journey was not pleasant. The rain fell inexorably; the paths were muddy and slippery. Again and again had to be stopped to make tipping and overturned wagons afloat again. Finally, in the morning hours, the battalions arrived at their destination and were hidden in companies in small wooded areas west of Flaucourt. "Soaked to the skin, shivering from the cold, huddled close together, the only consolation found was scolding and cursing at the people back home," writes Hauptmann v. Bernuth (Felix).

In the morning hours of the 26th the mood improved again. The August sun dried the wet clothes, and a small schnapps helped the inner being again. The food came close and the accommodation could be improved somewhat.

The Schleinitz Division, which also included the Alexander Regiment and two divisions of the 2nd Guards Field Artillery, was organized to repel enemy attacks and placed under the 21st Infantry Division. The enemy's artillery fire was weak at first.

The following day the remaining parts of the 21st Infantry Division were taken back, so that the regiment was now in the front line in the Herbecourt and Flaucourt sectors.

On August 28th the enemy felt the position; in front of the regiment he was turned away everywhere; but the division on the right of the neighboring division had to fall back a few hundred yards, forcing the 6th Company, lying on the right wing, to bend its wing back to the Herbecourt cemetery. Three violent attacks by enemy shock troops were repulsed there with rifles and hand grenades, with heavy losses for the enemy. The dashing Lieutenant Zogeiser went ahead alone with his lad and cleared the trenches in front of his front.

In the night of August 28th/29th the regiment was withdrawn behind the Somme on higher orders. It marched over the bridge near Halle to Moislains, known from 1916, and bivouacked there. During the shelling of Moislains, parts were moved to the canal dugouts east of town.

Since enemy attacks in the direction of Clery had gained ground on August 29, the 2nd Guards Division was assigned to the XI. Assigned to Army Corps. Group Augusta positioned itself as a reserve with the 1st and Fusilier Battalions in the artillery trough south of Bouchavesnes, with the 2nd Battalion just east of it. The Allaines in the dry bed of the canal. The main road to Peronne ran right in front of the staging area.

In the very dark night that followed, the 80th and 81st Regiments, which had advanced a few hundred meters, were relieved. The apron position ran along the "Siegfriedrücken"; on it was the 1st Battalion Frhr. v. Kettler deployed, while the fusilier battalion under Lieutenant v. Wedel occupied the main resistance line on the Seefelderhöhe. The 5th and 8th companies of the 2nd Battalion had to be pushed into gaps in the front; the 6th and 7th companies were kept ready in the artillery hollow for a counterattack.

As a result of the great darkness, and because some of the troops to be relieved had already moved away, the relief dragged on for a long time and was hardly over on the left wing when an English attack began in the morning in 545 without artillery preparation. The attack was repelled in front of the 1st Battalion and the right wing of the Fusiliers. The left wing had no contact with other troops and was therefore turned around; a train was taken prisoner; but since Piotrasch's machine-gun held its ground, the enemy was again thrown out of the trench. In order to fill in the gap left, the commander of the Fusilier Battalion deployed a platoon of the 9th Company in the sector of the neighboring regiment, which cleared the trenches there. During the day the enemy behaved more calmly. During the night of August 31, the enemy fired vigorous jamming fire, which swelled to great strength by 545 am. After half an hour's preparation, the great storm of the Australians set in across the whole front; but the regiment was on guard and turned the enemy away. The machine guns in particular cleared up the attacking English auxiliary peoples. In the adjoining sector to the south, the enemy hit straight into the detachment; this enabled him to advance over the Seefeld Heights into the Staufen Valley. From there, advancing north, he came into the rear of the Fusilier Battalion. The enemy also advanced to the right of the regiment after repeated persistent attacks and thus got into the trenches of the 1st Battalion, where fierce hand-to-hand fighting broke out. Here the lieutenants Kienast, Plath, Preuss, Borggräfe and Ensign Meyer fell; the lieutenants Manzke, Nenno and v. Spangenberg and Feldwebelleutnant Hollnagel were wounded. The front of the regiment began to falter and the wings began to crumble.

To seal off the 5th Company occupied the Seefeld Heights with the front to the south. The 10th and 12th companies

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were developed to reinforce the front, but, after stubborn resistance, they were caught in the flank and rear, together with the commander of the combat troops, Hauptmann Frhr. v. Kettler and Lieutenant v. Spangenberg mostly in captivity.

The 7th Company Franke immediately counterattacked, threw the enemy and reached the eastern slopes of the Seefeld Heights. There she released some cut off people of the I Battalion. But since the company was hanging in the air to the right and left. she had to be taken back to the main road. It was not easy for the company to give up the height again

after the brilliantly successful advance. On the way back she came under English machine gun fire. Lieutenant Franke, standing quite calmly on the street above, gave his orders so as not to cause any unrest.

The enemy pushed particularly sharply towards the important artillery trough and attacked the front of the 7th Company with more and more forces, which was now reinforced by parts of the Fusilier Battalion. Again and again he was forced to turn back. However, gradually the company began to run out of ammunition and hand grenades; so the English, who kept creeping up in the deep trenches leading to the road, had to be killed with butts, bayonet, and spades.

But even on the left the enemy had advanced far beyond the previous line of defense and had reached the canal. Under cover of heavy artillery and machine gun fire, he managed to establish himself on the road, from where he flanked the front of the 7th Company and subsequent parts. Then Lieutenant Franke decided to attack this enemy with people from his company and the battalion orderlies. He also managed to drive the English off the streets. He fell wounded into a shell crater. The English came back and killed all the wounded, but did not find Lieutenant Franke, who could observe everything. Meanwhile, Captain v. Bernuth (Felix) gathered a few people who, under Lieutenant Rotter, who was wounded, counterattacked to free them and finally occupied the road. Lieutenant Weger died a hero's death here.

The 6th Company was deployed against the enemy incursion south-east of Bouchavesnes, wounding its leader, Lieutenant Zogeiser.

In all these fights the associations had become confused; small squads could be seen fighting incoherently everywhere.

The regimental commander now laid down the great Peronne-Bouchavesnes road as the main line of resistance and placed all the troops in the sector under the command of Captain v. Bernuth. When the commander was personally in the process of arranging the formations in front, 430 pm. a new big attack by the English. In some places the enemy managed to advance until Hauptmann v. Bernuth personally with a few telephone operators and messengers from the staff. After the English had been thrown back, Hauptmann v. Bernuth in his energetic way the bandages on the street. It was thanks to his tireless activity alone that the English, who were once more pushing after him, met with stubborn resistance. A counter-attack by elements of the regiment on the right wing even advanced 2-300 meters beyond the road. The last available people were now deployed.

During the night the remains of the 478 Infantry Regiment were made available to the regiment and used as a security garrison in the St. Quentin-Allaines position.

Captain V. Bernuth (Felix) received the high order pour le mérite for fine, particularly dashing behavior that day. There was nobody in the regiment who was not wholeheartedly happy about this, for everyone knew him to be indestructible even in the most difficult times; where he met his people he called to them cheerful or hearty words of encouragement, and his comrades always found rest and refreshment with him. No one has fought in the ranks of the regiment as long as he has.

Heavy artillery fire began early on September 1 at the usual time, followed 20 minutes later by the usual attacks. At first all attempts were rejected; but when the enemy succeeded in advancing on the right-hand neighbor and in positioning machine-guns to cover the artillery hollow, the whole front had to yield to this pressure and retreated to the Allaines position under heavy artillery fire.

Here the riflemen were reinforced by the garrison of this position and taken on by officers, messengers and telephone operators from the regimental staff. The greatest pressure was on the right wing, where a few small detachments of Englishmen advanced close to the Allaines position.

When things calmed down again, the departments were reorganized; Parts of Regiment 478 were on the right wing, followed by the 2nd Guards Engineer Company on the left and the regiment's engineer detachment on the left wing. The remaining remnants of the regiment stood in reserve in the canal, three platoons with a total of 90 men. 6 machine guns were brought into position. Captain Glodkowski assumed command.

In the afternoon it was observed how the enemy tried to advance everywhere; all access trenches were therefore closed.

After very heavy fire, the attacks began again early in the morning of September 2nd. South of the regiment the enemy advanced through Haut-Allaines and then turned north. At the same time the left wing was attacked in the front with hand grenades and from half to the rear by machine gun fire; he could not, therefore, hold out any longer; on the northern edge of Allaines he resisted for a short time, then the remnants of the regiment retreated to the new main line of resistance in front of Aizecourt, where they were taken up by parts of the 1st Bavarian Jäger Regiment. Captain Glodkowski was taken prisoner after being badly wounded. The second line, running along the outskirts of the village, was manned by sappers and the mortar detachment; The prudent and well-proven Lieutenant Winkler assumed command of the sector. The regimental staff went into a hollow east of the Aizecourt-Nurlu road, also under heavy enemy fire. In the afternoon it was still possible to create an apron of about 200 meters by pushing out posts.

During the night the regiment was then replaced by the Bavarian Infantry Regiment 1 and marched into a forest near Aizecourt, the next day to Nonssoy, on September 4 to Le Catelet and on September 5 to Warlincourt.

Here the division stood as the intervention division of Group Conta.

In the very heavy fighting, the regiment had suffered great losses. Among the dead were Lieutenant Schultze and Lieutenant Frhr. v. Keyserlingk.

Battles for the Siegfried north of St. Quentin.
September and the first half of October 1918.

Initially, the regiment could only set up a combat battalion of 3 companies with 3 machine gun companies, even with the newly arriving 200 man replacements. This combat battalion,

the Captain v. Bernuth (Fritz) was led by General v. Visited Conta, who was responsible for the division as intervention division. The commanding general expressed his gratitude to the battalion for brave behavior in recent battles.

Immediately after this inspection the battalion had to march to Le Catelet and prepare itself there and at Gouy in cellars and old dugouts as an intervention squadron. A further 300 men from the 1st Battalion, Infantry Regiment 202 arrived here, so that 3 weak battalions could be deployed again; the battalion leaders were the newly appointed Captain Karkowsti, the Captains v. Bernuth (Felix and Fritz).

Regimental Commander: Major Frhr. v. Schleinitz,
regimental adjutant: Lieutenant Frhr. Raitz v. Frentz,
orderly officers: Lieutenant Maus and Lieutenant Graf Kielmannsegg,
machine gun officer: Lieutenant v. Heydebrand,
Gas Officer: Lieutenant Scholtz,
Court Officer: Feldwebelleutnant Gummert,
Regimental Doctors: Staff Doctor Dr. Koehler, Senior Physician Dr. Hey.
1st Battalion: Capt. Karkowski, Battalion Adjutant: Lt. Wilke,
Orderly Officer: Lt. Auscher,
1st Comp.: Lt. Hegel,
2nd Comp.: Lt. Freisleben, Lt. Fox, Lt. Rühms,
3rd company: Lt. Fritz,
1st Machine Gun Company: Lt. Mühlhausen,
II Battalion: Hauptm. v. Bernuth (Felix), battalion adjutant: Lt. Hasselbusch,
5th Comp: Lt. Winkler, Lt. Benner,
6th Comp: Lt. Zogeiser, Lt. Steinfatt,
7th Comp: Lt. Gresbrand, Lt. Wallmeyer,
2nd Machine Gun Company: Lt. Monastery, Lt. v. Bülow,
Fusilier Battalion: Hauptm. v. Bernuth (Fritz), battalion second-in-command: Lt. Reh, Orderly Officer: Lt. Körber,
10th Comp.: Lt. Schoenemann, Lt. Meinig,
11th Comp.: Lt. beast, Lt. Klein,
12th Comp.: Lt. Beyer, Lt. Thomae,
3rd Machine Gun Company: Lt. Reins,
mortar company: Lt. Buhr, Lt. Nickel, Lt. Greve, Lt. Papenhausen, Feldw.-Lt. May.

The regiment was intended to relieve the Bavarian Life Regiment forward Le Catelet. The position was reconnoitered, then the relief took place during the night of September 11th/12th. The Fusilier Battalion occupied the apron and the main line of resistance with the headquarters in Ronssoy, the II Battalion the artillery protection position and the I Division reserve the canal position at Macquincourt. The regimental command post was in the Vendhuille position, 300 meters north of the Guillemont Ferme.

Combat activity was low in the first few days, only a few scattered shots went into the ruins of Ronssoy. But the

Airmen were very active on both sides; the enemy had the superiority, could fly low with impunity, and tried to attack the German balloons. In one such attempt, Vice Sergeant Rüger of the 11th Company managed to shoot down the enemy attacker with his light machine gun.

The main line of defense was further strengthened; Resistance nests were set up everywhere and manned with machine guns and the newly introduced, large-caliber tank guns. Patrols were dispatched to the foreland to ascertain enemy activity.

Gradually the enemy worked their way up. On September 17, a strong patrol penetrated the apron between Franz and Augusta; she was expelled, but she managed to take four men of the regiment with her.

All signs indicated that another major attack was imminent.

As early as September 18, at 520 in the morning, violent barrages began.

Smoke, gas, and high-explosive shells rained down on the foremost battalion for an hour; soon there was nothing to be seen for the smoke and steam. When the fire died down, Hauptmann v. Bernuth (Fritz) sent flares and sent runners and reporting dogs to the regimental staff. But several reports were already coming in that the enemy had broken through on the right and were with tanks in the rear of the battalion. Captain V. Bernuth distributed the last ammunition and hand grenades to the people on his staff in order to put a bolt on Ronssoy with them, but a closed English company was already advancing in the village. There was nothing left but to go back to Lempire. In big leaps, everyone escaped with difficulty from the almost complete circle and then gathered again at the edge of the next village.

In the meantime the regimental commander had put the 5th and 6th companies on the march, with orders to increase Ronssoy. They advanced dashing under heavy machine-gun fire across the main road, where they engaged in hand-to-hand combat with the English. Our own troops were no longer visible there, and so the companies had to be withdrawn to the artillery defences, and from here, after repelling several English attacks, to the Le Sart Ferme. There was again a connection to the neighboring regiments. The canal position was manned by supply teams for security reasons.

In the night, immediately after 4 o'clock, heavy fire began on both sides of the sector, while the regiment remained suspiciously quiet. At 10 a.m. thick fog set in; the

reserves were kept ready. Every now and then the English work their way up to you. Heavy losses could be inflicted on the enemy, especially by the 5th and 6th companies, in hand grenade combat. In the course of the afternoon, however, contact was lost on both flanks, so that the lines had to be withdrawn to Le Sart Ferme itself. Here the 3rd and 7th companies were in front, the 1st and 2nd in the artillery position, the 5th and 6th there on standby. Captain Karkowski was in command. During the last retreat, field junior surgeon Hoelzer and his medical teams self-sacrificingly stayed with the wounded and were taken prisoner; Lieutenant Beast had fallen in battle.

September 20 began again with heavy fire, this time on the entire divisional sector. The readiness of the enemy infantry to attack was recognized in time and their attempts to attack were stifled by concentrated artillery fire. In the evening the enemy fire again increased to great intensity. This time it was our own airmen who came to the rescue and attacked the enemy infantry with bombs and machine guns, so that the intended attack was not carried out.

Artillery combat continued the next day, followed shortly before 8 a.m. by a broad-front infantry attack. But it was possible to force the enemy to turn back with heavy losses. Four tanks were destroyed in front of the regiment, one was destroyed behind the line; Lieutenant Winkler got an officer and a man out of it, still alive. Lieutenant Fritz and his men threw the English out of a small section of the trench that they had occupied. After all these successes, the mood in the regiment was again very elated; the commanding general also expressed his appreciation for him.

In the next three days, from 22.-24. September, the regiment repulsed all enemy attacks. If small sections of the trench were occupied by the enemy, they were immediately taken back in a counterattack. Lieutenant Steinfatt in particular distinguished himself in such a push, taking prisoners in the process. Lieutenant Fritz fell under enemy fire. On the 24th the 2nd Guards Division was mentioned with honor in the German army report, Lieutenant General v. Friedeburg received the Pour le mérite; and the next day the French reported:

"Between Hargicourt and Belle Eglise stood the 2nd Guards Division of the Germans, which fought with extraordinary bravery. She had previously been involved in fierce fighting on the Marne and Aisne. The reinforcements of all kinds which it has gradually absorbed to make up for its losses have not diminished its worth, nor the tenacity of its traditional ambition. The resistance of this German force increased to superhuman levels. They fought all day against the great bulk of our troops."

On the evening of September 24, advance detachments of the 80th and 84th Regiments arrived; the regiment was relieved and marched back to Villers Outreaux. There, accommodation was obtained in cellars and shelters, because the place was under fire. A combat battalion was set up with the following composition:

Leader: Hauptmann v. Bernuth (Fritz),
adjutant: Lieutenant Reh, aide-de-camp: Lt. Körber,
Comp. A from the 1st Comp.,
Comp. B from the 2nd and 3rd Comp.,
Comp. C from the 5th, 6th, 7th Comp.,
Comp. D from the 10th, 11th, 12th Comp.,
Machine Gun Comp. A from the 1st and half a 3rd machine gun company,
machine gun company B from the 2nd and half a 3rd machine gun company.

For the 27th, the combat battalion was again brought forward to the Siegfried Position, which was under heavy fire; the shelters were still good.

On the 29th the battalion had to advance again after receiving reports of an enemy penetration at Bellicourt and occupied the position of Lormisset-Ferme-Estrées. The

battalion was also here on September 30th and October 1st. Several English attacks were repelled. In these days, too, some people proved themselves to be particularly good. Among them was Vice Sergeant Thomas of the 2nd Machine Gun Company, who held out to the last by his machine gun. When he then did not want to make any statements about the German position to the English captain, the latter threatened that he wanted to have him "put against the wall". But Thomas remained firm, which made an impression on the Englishman.

After the relief on the evening of October 1, the regiment moved to Elincourt and Clary.

On October 3rd suddenly the order came to counterattack an enemy who had broken through—where, how far, when, all unknown. Therefore, the three combat battalions of the division under the well-trying Major v. Voss on both sides of the Roman road in the direction of Estrées, namely Augusta on the right, Alexander on the left of the road, Franz in the second line. Connection to other troops was not available. The Augusta Battalion, now Lieutenant v., advanced along the street as if on the unfurled parade ground. It came over hill and dale, in the sunshine, until just before Estrées. Here it encountered a strong enemy and had to cede a greater height to the advancing English. Lieutenant Hardrat, who operated a machine gun in an exemplary manner, fell in the process; Lieutenant Kloster was wounded. In the dark of night the battalion, as ordered, advanced to the Beaurevoir-Geneve railway south of Ponchaux.

On the following day, the enemy first showered the positions with very heavy artillery fire, but without success, since the regiment was well dug in, covered behind hedges. Then the enemy infantry attacked with a lot of guts. The regiment allowed them to come close and suddenly opened fire, simultaneously with machine guns stationed in the rising rear area, so that the attack came to an immediate halt. When the mortars then attacked the English, they flooded back head over heels. There was great joy about the beautiful victory!

A small nest of Englishmen had held out in front of the front. A machine gun fought it from the railway embankment, but the gunner kept rolling off the embankment with a shot in the head. The company commander, Lieutenant Benner, as always a brilliant role model for his people, took up the fight himself with the machine gun and died a hero; besides him the company had to complain about 5 gunners; but finally managed to get rid of the English nest.

In the afternoon the enemy repeated his heavy artillery fire; but his infantry rose no more to-day.

So this day meant a nice defensive victory. Hence the regiment was in an enthusiastic mood; once again one felt oneself superior to the enemy.

October 5th was a repeat of the previous day; but since the favorable points for the enemy's approach were already known, and artillery, machine guns and riflemen had zeroed in on them, the English infantry attacks in the morning and afternoon quickly collapsed. Just to the right of the regiment, Beaurevoir was captured by the enemy, and it was from here, on Sunday morning, October 6, in dense fog, that he attempted to advance into the regiment's right flank. But the machine-gun base in Mühlhausen, which was tasked with protecting the flank, paid close attention, allowed the enemy to approach and then shot them down. A

survivor confirmed that after 1-2 days of fighting the enemy divisions were replaced by fresh troops. On the other hand, when you saw the emaciated remnants of the German divisions!

On the evening of that day, the army commander expressed his special appreciation to the Augusta Combat Battalion, which in turn lifted the spirits.

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Her Royal Highness wrote: "I am particularly grateful for the heroic deeds of Captain v. Bernuth and Lieutenants Winkler, Zogeiser and Rotter at the head of equally brave grenadiers and fusiliers. I send you all the most faithful, heartfelt greetings. In wistful sorrow, I also take the warmest part in the heavy losses of my dear regiment. A special greeting goes to Sergeant Piotrasch and his death-defying troop and hearty congratulations and God bless the whole regiment."

On the morning of October 7th, instead of the English, Americans attacked. After heavy artillery fire, they advanced boldly but very clumsily. The machine guns mowed them down in rows. When the grenadiers on the railroad embankment saw how desperately the men from the other continent, who were not used to fighting, ran back and forth, they stormed out of their position with their edged weapons and hunted down the newcomers; above all, as always, Lieutenant Winkler. The coveted portions of meat were first taken from the prisoners. When they were interrogated, they immediately stuck cigarettes in their faces and were very happy with their lot. After all, fighting for this people meant nothing more than a kind of sport.

Heavy enemy fire began early in the morning of October 8; Smoke grenades enveloped the whole area in high, impenetrable clouds. In between there was a furious noise of battle. Around 630 the infantry attack began; dense crowds of Americans emerged from the fog; the infantry immediately fired on everything that came into view; these parts did not appear further. But when the battalion commander went onto the wing, he saw long-formed detachments of people with flat steel helmets advancing on the heights north and east of Ponchaur, and in part turning towards Ponchaur. Soon the enemy pressed on the battalion from both flanks and from behind. Tanks rattled up the street, firing...

Lieutenant Winkler turned to the battle with the second line and held the attackers in check, but the battle was too unequal against the crushing superiority; the only option was to fight backwards in small squads. During this retreat Lieutenant Nickel, who was the last to follow his men, fell. Private Czega particularly distinguished himself.

Now it was a question of setting up a favorable place for new resistance. First a front was made between Ponchaur and Premont; but after a short time the retreat to Marez had to be continued. Enemy cavalry already occupied Premont. At the forest south-east of Marez a new line was then established, which was properly divided up and manned. The enemy

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did not exploit his success; he had not learned the war of movement and was content with the occupied towns.

Soon after, the remnants of the 2nd Guards Division were pulled out of the position. The elements of Combat Battalion Augusta arrived in Busigny late at night. After days of exertion and the unusual retreat, they were exhausted physically and mentally; they had first to strengthen themselves by long sleeps. All companies had shown excellent spirit in the last battles.

On October 10, the remnants continued to march backwards. Passing a church from which the organ was playing, they entered and straightened themselves to the old hymns. In Ors the regiment gathered under Major v. Voss and marched via Berlaimont to Erquelinnes, where it stayed in good accommodation to refresh itself. Here 150 men arrived from the Russian front and from Germany; they brought the new cry of "Lights out, knives out, cut him down!", which from now on became the battle roar of all light-shy rabble. The old Augustans remained reliable.

The following decree was received during these days:

Main Headquarters, October 5, 1918.

"To the German Army and the German Navy!

For months the enemy has been storming your lines with tremendous exertion, almost without a break in the fighting. In weeks of struggle, often without rest, you must endure and stand up to the enemy, who far outnumber you. Therein lies the greatness of the task that is set before you and that you fulfill. Troops from all German tribes do their duty and heroically defend the fatherland on foreign soil. Hard is the state of my fleet. In order to assert oneself against the combined enemy naval forces and to support the army in tireless work in its difficult battle. The eyes of the homeland are fixed on the deeds of the army and the navy with pride and admiration. I give you my thanks and that of the fatherland. The collapse of the Macedonian front fell in the midst of the most difficult struggle. Your front is unbroken and will remain so.

In agreement with our allies, I have decided to once again offer the enemy peace. But we will only shake hands for an honorable peace, we owe it to the heroes who lost their lives. Left for the fatherland, we owe it to our children.

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It remains to be seen whether the guns will rest. Until then, we must not let up; we must, as before, do everything in our power to tirelessly withstand the enemy's onslaught. The hour is serious. But trusting in our strength and God's gracious help, we feel strong enough to defend our beloved homeland.

Wilhelm."

Three battalions were now formed again; the 1st is a supply battalion, it was assigned the regimental staff and intelligence department; the combat battalions are the II. Bernuth (Fritz).

During the night of October 17th/18th the battalions were loaded again. Since the train crew initially refused to drive, the train could only depart the next night.

The defensive battle in Flanders.
Late October 1918.

At this time the English were pushing particularly hard against the north wing of the German front; the 2nd Guards Division should therefore be deployed in Flanders to strengthen it.

The regiment was unloaded at Petegem and Berchem on the evening of October 18 and marched to accommodation in Vichte and Nokere. The regimental staff moved to Waregem the next day.

In contrast to the French war zone, the country made a flourishing impression. The flat fields and meadows were surrounded by many hedges, the long streets were bordered by poplars or willows. The farmsteads were scattered about the area, so that the whole country looked like one big garden. Here and there lonely mills rattled in the wind. But the weather was constantly cloudy and rainy, thick fog lay over the fields.

On October 20, the regiment received the following order:

“The enemy broke through at the 7th Cavalry Division and took Deerlyt. The regiment is a corps reserve at Waregem.”

The regiment was brought up there with trucks. The staff went to De Biest; the battalions were stationed on both sides of the main road, mostly distributed in platoons in the individual farmsteads. Machine guns were positioned and patrols were dispatched to establish the front line.

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Enemy artillery only made itself felt on October 22nd. The following night the lines were moved back for strategic reasons; the regiment moved into quarters in Nokere and Joenshoek as an army reserve.

The very next day the regiment was brought back to Het Bunder, where it took up a reception position. Lieutenant Zogeiser was badly wounded while displaying his post. On October 25, the sector of the 61st Infantry Regiment on the Deinze-Huije road was taken over and the defense carefully prepared.

In order to get an idea of the fighting power of the regiment at that time, a few numbers are given:

The staffs of the regiment and the two battalions, including bishops and orderlies, consisted of 32 heads; 41 men belonged to the message train and 23 men to the stretcher bearers; the 2nd Battalion had 77 actual riflemen, the Fusilier Battalion 72 men! In addition the regiment had 20 light machine guns, 16 heavy machine guns and 11 mortars, with the most necessary operating crews.

The last replacement transport from home had again brought many bad elements with it; especially the very young people, who had never faced the enemy before, had the big say.

Whole air squadrons fought in the air every day; otherwise combat activity up to October 30th was low. One could almost believe the war was over; Shooting could no longer be heard.

October 31, the regiment's last major day of combat, began with a glorious sunrise. The sun's rays struck a determined, unbowed force!

Heavy artillery fire suddenly started early in the morning. Most of them were light calibers, but there were also incendiary grenades, which were supposed to ignite the grain heaps with their fire snakes, behind which the German machine guns lay, and the hated smoke bombs, which blocked the already brief view between the hedges. The front of the regiment was fixed. After an hour the English infantry attack began. Ahead of the sector appeared a number of enemy tanks, in column one behind the other. The level-headed tank gunner in the middle of the fusilier battalion brought the foremost monster to within 80 yards, fired and put it out of action with the first shot; the crew hastily left the burning car, and the following tanks immediately turned and disappeared again. The English infantry, who had dared to advance completely trusting in their tanks, now hastily fled, pursued by German rifle fire.

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So the battle of the day seemed to have been decided with the best of results, when the bad news came that the enemy had broken through with tanks to the left of the regiment. An immediate counter-attack had to be avoided, as the artillery fired too short. The regiment's position was bent back on the left wing; Setbacks were avoided through the prudent leadership of the leader of the 12th Company, Lieutenant Koerber.

At noon the II. Karkowski Battalion counterattacked to the left of the Heydebrand Battalion. It was possible, especially with the help of the mortars, to throw the enemy out of several homesteads, capturing one more enemy tank.

So the day ended in all honor; the mood was very high because of the success, and October 31 remains a ray of hope in the memory.

The return march to the Scheldt-Gent position was planned for the following night. This movement began at eleven o'clock in the evening; the rear guards still stayed with the enemy. The moon had risen, throwing its pale light over the sleeping landscape of Flanders and reflected in the great pools of water. Everyone went after their own thoughts. These Vlamen would now be 'liberated' and Belgian again tomorrow. Going back without a fight brought strange feelings; should all efforts have been in vain? But in the end they consoled themselves with the fact that these are all the concerns of the higher commanders, the troops only have to obey.

Towards morning the very exhausted battalions took up quarters in Melsen.

Then the Scheldt position was occupied. The west bank was gradually cleared during the day, so that the regiment was again in the front line. The position was very favourable, for the opposite bank was quite flat and uncovered; the next 600 meters nobody could dig in

because of the water level. In the first days of November work was carried out on further strengthening the position, which made good progress. The opponent kept quiet. Vice-Sergeant-Major Bull of the 11th Company crossed the Scheldt on November 3rd and set fire to a house on the other bank which offered the enemy good cover and which artillery and mortars had failed to destroy; In the order of the day, the divisional commander gave him special recognition for this dashing deed.

Around this time the internal support of all the troops became stronger again. The mood lifted, partly because of the very good food, which was still plentiful here in this rich country. It was felt that the enemy's strength was also rapidly failing;

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his exhausted and battle-weary infantry was no longer capable of serious attack.

Especially in the heroic battles of the last few months, the German army once again showed all its inner strength. In spite of his great superiority, the enemy never succeeded in breaking through the front.

So the last strength was gathered and it was expected that in the near future all the fighters would lower their weapons after the long struggle. Even the English Marshal Haig urged "a peace that honors Germany" since "the Allied troops were at the end of their strength".

Then the internal revolution handed us over unconditionally to the now excessive demands of the enemy!

Armistice.

On the morning of November 4th, in rainy weather, the regiment broke away from the enemy for the last time. It was replaced by the Saxon Grenadier Regiment 100 and moved into local accommodation in Scheldewindeke south-east of Ghent.

His Majesty the Emperor visited the 4th Army that day and thanked the 2nd Guards Division for the fighting in Flanders.

On November 6th they marched to Okegem and Oelter; On the way, temporary quarters had to be set up, since the people were very tired and battered by the bad weather. On November 7th the regiment arrived at Denderleeuw station, where loading took place on the evening of the 8th. The regiment drove to Herbesthal via Brussels-Löwen-Liège. The train often had to stop for hours on the way because the railway operations had been ordered.

During one such stay, Major Freiherr v. Schleinitz, in short words, which he, the old soldier, could hardly get out of his mouth, that his Majesty had resigned in order to save his people bloodshed, and that the new government had accepted the terms of the enemy's armistice. Officers, non-commissioned officers and many enlisted men could not help but cry; how they envied their fallen comrades at that moment! After the commander's words, a non-

commissioned officer made a passionate speech about the duty to stick together even more now. At the end, the regimental band played "Deutschland, Deutschland über alles".

Thus the German army, never defeated in a field battle, had to lower its arms in the face of the superiority of the enemy and as a result of the disunity of its own people.

The difficult times followed until the peace treaty and the peace treaty itself, with all its humiliations, which touches the heart of every German and lets the soldiers fall silent in impotent, restrained anger!

Everyone in the regiment felt these blows, and he had to fight them out again and again in his innermost being in the quiet hours. What a feeling of bitterness came over the old front-line fighters when they thought that for four years they had risked lives and health in order to get rid of their own people, precisely those who had protected them with their bodies, reaping nothing but mockery and scorn! So the people, who let themselves be seduced by criminal agitators without thinking twice, gave up the last thing that could have brought us peace in honor.

On November 11, the sad journey ended in the evening on German soil in Herbesthal. The 2nd Guards Division had the task of sealing off the border here. The regiment marched to Belgian Moresnet and lodged there.

But the order was canceled the very next day; the division, which was known to be particularly reliable, was to be transported home at the disposal of the Ministry of War and marched back to the undetermined loading station. The marches led from November 12th to 20th through the neighborhoods of Weilheim, Heister, Eschweiler, Weilerswist, near Bonn over the Rhine, Oberkassel, Ober-Pleiss, Sieglar, Wahn. In the larger towns workers' and soldiers' councils had been formed on the Russian model. In the regiment, people didn't tolerate a soldiers' council. The battalions marched in the old order and were therefore warmly received by the population everywhere. An old woman spoke to her heart when she said in simple words: "I thank you, dear sir, for keeping the border free from the enemy!" Then the inhabitants had decorated the houses with flowers and flags, and honored the returning warriors; Everywhere the reception was pleasant and cordial.

In madness the regiment was loaded; Staff I. and II. Battalion and the 3 machine gun companies drove via Duisburg Leipzig Breslau to Rosenberg in Upper Silesia.

The Poles had taken advantage of the impotence of the German Republic and attacked and robbed the province of Posen; in the same way they threatened to invade Silesia. Therefore, a few reliable troops were destined to take over the protection of the Silesian-Polish border.

The regiment arrived in Rosenberg during the night of November 23-24 in biting cold.

The fusilier battalion had accidentally been transported to Berlin and was led to the barracks by the soldiers' council of the replacement battalion and the music with red armbands and red cockades. The population was impassive. Officers and men fought back tears at such a reception in their home town after 4½ years of hard war! The sensible people of the battalion followed their officers again the next day and joined the regiment with them.

As a border guard, the regiment was in the Kreuzburg and Rosenberg sections. Soldiers' councils appeared for the first time in December; discipline became looser, service was no longer performed, the obligation to salute ceased. Old soldiers who could no longer bear to see these conditions asked to be released.

However, her willpower was unbroken. Private Lüning writes: "Now we have no reason to be idle; the very war should have brought us to purposeful men. If we do what is in our power, we can see a better future!"

At this time the activity of the regular sergeants, who had dutifully cared for their people throughout the war, also came to an end; when everything changed, they were the only place of rest. And with them there are the well-established regimental and battalion clerks Budach and Günther, Voigt, Mixa and Schützeichel.

In the course of the spring it was possible to restore order in the regiment. The former Augusta officers who had returned from other theaters of war and reserve formations rejoined. Young Silesian substitutes were trained. Lohmann, the loyal purser, took care of the catering.

Commander: Colonel V. Behr, at times Major vd Hardt and Major Graf vd Schulenburg.
Adjutant: Oberlt. Mrs. Naitz v. Frenz; Orderly Officer: Lieutenant Maus; Medical Officer Dr. Charcoal burner; Paymaster Lohmann.

II. Battalion: Captain v. Bernuth (Felix), Adjutant: Leutn. Freisleben.

5th Comp.: Lt. Winkler, Lt. schoolman.

6th comp.: Rittm. v. Tempfky, Lt. Fox, Lt. v. dossow

2. M.-G.-K.: Lt. Albanos.

Fusilier Battalion: Hauptm. v. Unger (Fritz), Adjutant: Lt. deer

11th Comp.: Lt. Franke, Lt. Bird.

12th Comp.: Lt. Scholtz (Curt), Lt. v. Bulow, Lt. Overdiek.

3. M.-G.-K.: Lt. Auscher, Lt. defoy

Border Guard Battalion: Hauptm. Wild (Max).

Furthermore, the captains v. pilgrim, v. Obernitz, v. Priem, v. Trauwitz-Hellwig, Frhr. v. kettlers

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The high chief, the wife of the Grand Duchess of Baden, remained loyal to the regiment, as she had done throughout the war, and so now in these unfortunate times. She wrote on December 16:

"It was an extremely great pleasure and comfort for me to receive news from my dear regiment. My thoughts were always with you all, and I need not assure you that not a day passed when you were not cared for from afar, perhaps all the more intensely because it was difficult to get close to you. In the immeasurably difficult time that we now have to go through, the old relationships of unbreakable loyalty only gain more and more value. They

prove themselves, they deepen—and gratitude is felt all the more deeply; and so I would like to express my gratitude in these few lines.

The regiment has been able to defeat the enemy everywhere and selflessly withstood all dangers, but there are other dangers, other enemies than those of the last four years of the war.

May God rule over you all with His mercy as before. As every year, I can commend my modest little calendar to your forgiving reception.

God with us!

Luise, Grand Duchess of Baden, Princess of Prussia.”

The regiment took part in the uprising in Munich in May and was then transferred to Lübben as part of the Reichswehr.

On July 1, 1919, the once proud Queen Augusta Garde-Grenadier-Regiment No. 4 ceased to exist.

Closing Words. Wounded.

Almost every frontline fighter has been wounded at least once. A heavy blow — then, alongside great weariness, the feeling: You're still alive! Soon, if the wound is not too serious, pride will prevail that one has been able to do something for the fatherland again, and as a reward, hopefully soon, one will come home for a while, far away from all the fighting. These thoughts make the hours of torment and pain soon forgotten. After the first bandaging comes the tedious dragging yourself back to the first aid station: here you have to lie and wait. And then the return journey, in the car, on the train, slowly and terribly jolting. The sisters, who are greeted like a first piece of home, help with gentle hands, and finally, after a lot of washing in the white bed, that wonderful feeling: you are safe again at home!

Some were lucky and received important visitors in the hospital while still in enemy country. As often as his time permitted, the Emperor sought out the wounded to comfort them. He talked to each one of them, talked to them about the great achievements at the front. Everyone was deeply moved by the Emperor's kindness.

In the same way the empress cared for the wounded at home; she gave flowers and words of comfort to many an Augustan.

The wounded who were taken to a military hospital in Karlsruhe or Baden received very special care. The Grand Duchess insisted on taking care of him as soon as an Augustan was reported to her until he was cured. So many have a nice personal memory of their high boss.

Gradually, however, the time at home with all its limitations became too long; and one could hardly wait for the day when they went out again with new strength into the fresh war!

Trapped.

We also want to commemorate the unfortunate ones who, through no fault of their own, fell into enemy hands after being severely wounded or after tenacious resistance. Most had to lead a miserable existence far from home for years. The real soldiers, however, remained upright men even in captivity, despite all the tortures of body and soul.

Fusilier Schäfer of the 10th company, whose lower leg was shattered in the first battle of the Marne, writes: "In captivity we had to endure a lot of insults and mockery. Our beloved Emperor was their chief aim. They told us of their great victories; but if the truth did penetrate through the web of lies and they had to admit defeat, we were immediately retaliated against and our lot worsened. But we put up with it and were glad when such days came; then we had the surest proof that our troops had won a victory."

Neither international law nor the feelings of humanity prevented the French in their animal hatred from tormenting the defenseless "boche" wherever they could.

On September 14, 1914, while driving from home to the regiment, Lieutenant Lammers (Bernard), the youngest of the three brothers, was captured in a village near Laon already occupied by the French. Shortly thereafter, without any interrogation, he was put against the wall as an alleged spy and shot!

Sergeant Schumacher preferred to be imprisoned than to treat his fellow prisoners badly as a supervisor; He spent 150 days in detention in Le Havre because he didn't do what the French man-torchers demanded.

Thousands of prisoners who had previously been in particularly good health had broken down completely from lack of care.

The detention of our prisoners in France years after the conclusion of peace, just for the pleasure of torment, will not be forgotten!

The replacement battalion.

Only those who put themselves back in the mood of August 1914 can understand how officers, non-commissioned officers and enlisted men felt who had to stay behind in the garrison at the time. When the first news of the regiment arrived at the end of the month and the losses suffered at Auvellais became known, those who stayed behind found it difficult to bear their longing for the regiment in the field! There was a lot of work for her now. Immediately after the regiment's move out, the barracks had to be put in order again; it had to be prepared for all the formations that had not yet gone out and had been housed in the neighborhood until then. Immense was the stream of volunteers who had been turned away from the active regiment and were now crowding into the barracks again. In addition, there was the suddenly necessary accommodation of almost 2,000 East Prussian refugees.

But all difficulties were overcome, food and lodging for men and horses, formation and equipment of the new formations were arranged in good time.

As the recruits were hired and the wounded arrived, the replacement battalion grew more and more, so that the barracks were no longer adequate, despite double the peacetime occupation. Schools and other buildings in the area had to be occupied for almost the entire war. Over time, recruit, convalescent, field and garrison companies were formed.

The enormous amount of work done by the battalion in all areas can be seen from the fact that during the war more than 17,000 men were trained and put into the field to replace the active regiment alone, quite apart from the many other payments for the Reserve and new formations.

Very high demands were placed on the training staff. Time was short, and yet the basics of peacetime training and up-to-date training on the latest war experiences were required of recruits before they went out. For a long time there was a lack of the newer weapons that were needed at the front. Entire companies often had only a few rifles 98.

Even outside the battalion, everyone who could help happily gave their best for the regiment. Love gifts were collected and sent out. The wives of the officers, especially the many war widows, looked after the wives and children of the non-commissioned officers in the field; they also prepared an annual Christmas party for them in the officers' mess. The whole area around the barracks took an active part in everything that concerned the regiment; Friesenstrasse was always there with flowers and gifts whenever a replacement transport with young and healed warriors, accompanied by music, went to the train station. Frau vd Planitz appeared there almost regularly to give people cigars and warm underwear as presents.

The many who have done their duty faithfully here at home cannot be listed by name; only the commanders of the replacement battalion Major v. Oidtman, Lt. Col. Byern, Major v. Barby, Colonel v. Schwemler, Major Kalbe, Major Frhr. v. Bredow; then the indefatigable Captain Heuer, who as adjutant, in addition to his varied work, so often had good advice and words of comfort for the relatives of the dead and wounded; the eager chief medical officer Dr. Mannheim; Officer deputy Moeller, the permanent support of the reserve battalion in the office, who knew all the right advice; and the chief purser, Lichters, who was well versed in the administrative branches.

For years she and the other faithful did their heavy duty in silence, always striving to use the forces, which had often been under attack, for the good of the regiment out in the field.

Review.

The deeds of the regiment pass before us once again in memory:

We remember with reverence the men who rushed through the fields of Belgium and France with that incomparable army of 1914 with almost superhuman speed and fighting power.

They drove the enemy before them and carried their weapons into the heart of the land. With the last of their strength at the end of the first year, they struggled in vain to make the decision. Then in Galicia, Poland, and Russia they dealt blow after blow to the Tsar's mass armies. They fought in powerful attacks and in bloody, glorious defences, in Flanders, in the Artois and in Champagne. In the last year of the war they once again penetrated deep into France, spreading fear and pale terror among the old hereditary enemy. They were men who endured heat and cold, hunger and thirst for years, who neither faltered nor trembled under the terrible impressions of battle, in wounds, misery and death!

They were heroes, the leaders who, in front of their people, were the first to throw themselves at the enemy. Heroism was shown by those countless thousands who did their heavy duty in quiet devotion in the masses, wordlessly, constantly facing death, unnoticed, unrewarded, but for that very reason true heroes! The well-being of the German people was more important to them than their own lives. That is why their deeds are written in golden letters in the book of history, and their fame remains immortal!

The memory of these men and our old, proud regiment will remain sacred to us; it lets us become firmer in the joyful hope of Germany's resurrection!